

their share.¹ The Parliament-men dispersed in mid-winter, and the roads in every direction around Northampton were once more blocked with long cavalcades, slowly wending home to every corner of England. It is to be wondered whether any observant lord or knight, as he passed through the squalid villages that lined the highway, noticed an unusual insolence in the manners of the peasantry, saw crowds gathered around orators, or heard catchwords of revolt. The spirit of economic agitation had been remarked in England for the last thirty ye[^]rs and more, and it was now allied to the spirit of political rebellion. Whether they suspected it or not, the Parliament-men had fired a mine by the poll-tax which they had voted for the King's necessities. The country was oa the eve of the Peasants' Eising.

¹ Wilkina, iii. 1CO.